

Learning Well: A School Health Partnership



Indianapolis Public Schools are Making it Happen!



WE ARE the largest public school district in Indiana, distinctly diverse in population. Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS) covers 80 square miles in the heart of Indianapolis and Marion County and employs 6,000 people.

OUR STUDENTS & FAMILIES

IPS serves 29,581 students and their families. Our student population reflects the multicultural landscape of the city of Indianapolis. Of our students, 48.9% are Black, 25% Hispanic, 20% White, 4.6% Multiracial and 0.6% Asian. Further, 15% of our students are EL with a total of 56 languages spoken in the district. Just over 18% of our students receive Special Education services and 70.7% are eligible for free and reduced lunch.

OUR TEACHERS know the needs of their students and are adept at identifying health concerns. They consistently refer children and teens to the school-based health clinic for care.

OUR PROMISING PRACTICE

The IPS/ Learning Well partnership provides primary health care services to all students regardless of their ability to pay. School-based health clinics are staffed by nurse practitioners from the local health department, federally-qualified health centers, and hospitals. At the school clinics students are able to get sports physicals, diagnosis and treatment for infections, assistance with chronic disease management, immunizations and referrals for other medical and social services as needed. The intent of these services is to expand access to health care by working with families and their health care providers to offer quality health care in the school setting. As a result students miss fewer days of class and are healthy and ready to learn.

OUR STEPS Currently, 16 schools in IPS are served by Learning Well clinics. Learning Well, Inc. is a non-profit organization that is funded in large part by a grant from The Health Foundation of Greater Indianapolis with additional financial support from state and governmental agencies and donations from IPS, including a portion of IndianaMAC revenues. Learning Well, Inc. built legal infrastructure including funding and health care partners and determined health services. Health care partners provided staff for the clinics, Learning Well provided supplies and equipment, and IPS provided the venues. Learning Well staff then met with IPS to develop a memorandum of understanding. Schools with the greatest health and socio-economic needs were identified for clinic sites. Learning Well, Inc. and IPS have sustained this program for the past 14 years through grants and financial support from local organizations and state/governmental agencies.

IN OUR OWN WORDS

“The IPS/Learning Well partnership provides resources for IPS to improve not only the health of our students but also their success in learning and achievement. With this initiative instructional time is maximized, parents can remain at work and healthcare costs are lower for the family”.

Mary Conway, MSN RN, Administrative Coordinator for Nursing Services for IPS

For more information about our school or corporation, email: *Brent Freeman*, freemanbj@myips.org or visit our website: www.myips.org